

MAGNET

Drawer 11a

7/1/2007 08:15:00

INDIANA



Indiana

Cities & Towns

Magnet

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS MAY 24, 1950

RINGSIDE IN HOOSIERLAND

Lincoln Slept in Perry County House

By WAYNE GUTHRIE

Tradition has it that Abraham Lincoln once slept in the old log house of Mrs. Anna J. Martin near the hamlet of Magnet, down in Perry County.

In fact she likes to point to the very room where the Lincoln family stopped for a night back in 1816 on its trek from Kentucky to set up a new home in pioneer Southern Indiana. In that group besides the youthful Abe were his father, Thomas; his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and his sister, Sarah.

Mrs. Martin is shown seated in front of the beautiful handmade mantelpiece, one of the most attractive features of the interior of the structure.

There is considerable controversy as to just where the Lincoln family crossed the Ohio River on its way to Indiana, but it seems just as logical that they stopped at this old house as at any other place.

"In the extreme end of Perry County, some few miles from the Crawford County line, there was place called Dobson's Landing where there was a woodyard and where passing boats stopped to refuel," Edgar W. Schergens, of Tell City, wrote. "This may have been the place where the Lincoln family crossed the Ohio."

This structure is probably the oldest house in Perry County, having been built in 1813, which was three years before Indiana became a state and seven years before the original Perry County Courthouse was built at the then county seat of Rome. (Cannelton is now the county seat.)

The builder of the house was the Rev. Joseph Springer, a Methodist circuit rider.

The house is situated on 173 acres of rolling farmland. In addition Mrs. Martin also owns 70 acres more below that tract.

Originally there were six rooms in the large house, part of which has been sealed and plastered. The Rev. Mr. Springer reserved the upstairs for church services and the first floor served as a general store. A history of Perry County says he established the Springer schoolhouse, one of the conspicuous school buildings of that locality.

Among the features of the house that attract the attention of the visitor, in addition to the splendid mantelpiece, are the solid walnut doors that are put together with wooden pegs, or pins, and the circular staircase.



The two huge fireplaces, connected to large chimneys, were large enough to provide means for cooking meals. The bricks, doubtless, were handmade.

In contrast to the old features Mrs. Martin has many modern conveniences throughout the building, made possible by electrification. These include an electric range, refrigerator, fluorescent lights and radio.

The farm and the house have changed hands only three times. Mrs. Martin's abstract shows that the Rev. Mr. Springer's estate sold it to Dow Hatfield. At his death his widow sold it to Victor Humber and the Martins bought it from the Humber 47 years ago.

Hatfield remodeled the house and added two rooms. The lumber, like that used by the Springers, was cut off the place and Humber had it finished at the old Tipsaw mill.

Mrs. Martin, who has managed the farm for years, decided not long ago to sell it and that may have taken place ere now. She drives her own car and manages all her own affairs but she finds

the farm life is getting a bit too strenuous.

Incidentally Mrs. Martin is the aunt of Congressman Andrew Jacobs (D. Ind.), his father, Mike, of Troy, Perry County, being her brother. Andrew himself was born and reared in the Derby and Magnet locality.





